

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method for adjusting ink feeding rates of a printing machine when performing a printing operation using printing plates with an image recorded thereon based on printing data, said method comprising: a reference print preparing step for making a first printing plate by recording an image thereon based on first image data for recording a reference chart including a plurality of color patches set beforehand, and printing a reference print with said first printing plate; a reference print color density measuring step for obtaining color data of said reference print by reading said reference print prepared in said reference print preparing step; a conversion table creating step for creating a conversion table based on said first image data and said color data of said reference print and showing a relationship between said first image data and said color data; a reference color data converting step for converting data of predetermined measurement positions of second image data for recording a desired image on the printing plates for use in printing, into reference color data by using said conversion table; a print preparing step for making a second printing plate by recording an image thereon based on said second image data, and printing a print with said second printing plate; a print color density measuring step for obtaining print color data of positions corresponding to said measurement positions by reading said print prepared in said print preparing step; and an ink feeding rate adjusting step for adjusting the ink feeding rates of said printing machine based on a result of comparison between said reference color data obtained in said reference color data converting step and said print color data.

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2. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reference chart includes a plurality of color patches with successively varying dot percentages for each of YMCK colors.
3. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 2, wherein said measurement positions are positions having a representative color characterizing the image of the print.
4. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 3, wherein said representative color and the positions thereof are determined for respective sections corresponding to ink keys in each ink well of the printing machine.
5. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 4, wherein said image data has three color components, said representative color being determined by classifying pixels in each of sections corresponding to said ink keys according to tones of each of the three color components, and determining said representative color and a position thereof from pixels included in a predetermined class interval.
6. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 5, wherein a histogram with the tones of each of the three color components of each pixel in each of said sections is created, and said representative color and the position thereof are selected from pixels included in a class interval of maximum frequency in said histogram.

7. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reference chart includes color patches having dot percentages for printing a color corresponding to a particular color to be reproduced faithfully.
8. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 7, wherein said measurement positions are positions having a representative color characterizing the image of the print.
9. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 8, wherein said representative color and the positions thereof are determined for respective sections corresponding to ink keys in each ink well of the printing machine.
10. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 9, wherein said image data has three color components, said representative color being determined by classifying pixels in each of sections corresponding to said ink keys according to tones of each of the three color components, and determining said representative color and a position thereof from pixels included in a predetermined class interval.
11. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 10, wherein a histogram with the tones of each of the three color components of each pixel in each of said sections is created, and said representative color and the position thereof are selected from pixels included in a class interval of maximum frequency in said histogram.

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12. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said measurement positions are positions having a representative color characterizing the image of the print.

13. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 12, wherein said representative color and the positions thereof are determined for respective sections corresponding to ink keys in each ink well of the printing machine.

14. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 13, wherein said image data has three color components, said representative color being determined by classifying pixels in each of sections corresponding to said ink keys according to tones of each of the three color components, and determining said representative color and a position thereof from pixels included in a predetermined class interval.

15. (Original) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 14, wherein a histogram with the tones of each of the three color components of each pixel in each of said sections is created, and said representative color and the position thereof are selected from pixels included in a class interval of maximum frequency in said histogram.

Claims 16-21 (Cancelled)